



## History of Weather Observations

Weather observations for Las Vegas have been recorded as far back as 1895. However, it was not until January 1, 1937 that a record of the weather in Las Vegas was made by official government employees. Western Express Field located eight miles northeast of downtown Las Vegas was the first location used to compile official weather observations used for record keeping purposes. Over time, these records consisted of temperature, precipitation (including snow), wind, humidity, pressure and sky cover. Western Express Airport eventually became Nellis Air Force Base. On December 18, 1948 the United States Weather Bureau (as it was then known) moved its' offices south to the site of what was originally Alamo Field on the south end of Las Vegas Boulevard. After being purchased by Clark County, Nevada, Alamo Field became the new McCarran Field. This was 14 miles southwest of the previous location and also located at 2162 feet above sea level, an increase in elevation from the site in the northeast part of the valley which was at 1876 to 1879 feet above sea level. The new McCarran Field is now McCarran International Airport and remains the site of official weather observations today. However, snow observations have been recorded at the National Weather Service office located 3 miles southwest of McCarran International Airport on Dean Martin Drive just north of Blue Diamond Road since February 1, 1996. A more detailed history of weather observations in Las Vegas is available in the publication *A History of the National Weather Service in Las Vegas*.